

# A 'WARNING' FOR STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY students are being "warned" against a career in the Public Service.

The "warning" campaign comes from the National Union of Australian University Students.

The NUAUS president, Bob Pearce, explained: "We're applying pressure on the Commonwealth and State Public Service Boards and we're supplying information to students."

"We object to the restrictions imposed on the political activities of public servants."

"We want a change in the restrictions. If we don't get a change, we are, at least, informing graduates about the problems."

What kind of restrictions do you object to?

"They try to force public servants to be apolitical," Bob said.

"All public servants are prevented from commenting on the administration of any public service department, not only the department employing them."

Bob said NUAUS acknowledged the need for restrictions on:

- Subordinates criticising their superiors in public.

- Departmental secrets.

- Public servants using confidential information for their personal advantage.

Bob said it was essential for public servants to be unfettered.

"In the type of pseudo - democracy we've got, a citizen must be politically involved to make democracy work," he said.

"The only check on government is an informed, outspoken and interested public."

"Political restrictions on public servants remove a large percentage of the population from this participation."

Bob was unable to quote examples of public servants who had been "dealt with" for their political activities.

"There are not many known cases because it only takes one or two examples to scare the public servants," he said.

"It takes considerable courage to buck the regulations."

"And because few public servants are speaking out now, this doesn't mean they wouldn't if the restrictions were lifted," Bob said.

"Individuals ought to be free to comment on politics. If this freedom is beneficial to the individual then it is beneficial to the country."



BOB PEARCE — president of the National Union of Australian University Students.



By  
**DAVID GRIFFITHS**

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